CLAIMS

1. A diorganopolysiloxane composition comprising a source of ferrous ions and 0.0001 – 0.05 wt.% of a bis (2-pyridylthio-1-oxide) non-ferrous metal salt.

2. The composition according to Claim 1, which comprises a condensation-reaction-curable diorganopolysiloxane composition.

3. The composition according to Claims 1 or 2, comprising an inorganic filler.

4. The composition in accordance with claim 3 wherein the source of ferrous ions is present in said inorganic filler.

5. The composition according to any preceding claim wherein said source of ferrous ions is iron (II) oxide.

6. The composition according to any one of claims 3, 4 or 5 wherein said inorganic filler is a calcium carbonate powder that contains iron oxide.

7. The composition according to any preceding claim, comprising:

(A) 100 parts by weight of a diorganopolysiloxane base that contains the following components:

(A-1) 20 – 100 wt.% of a diorganopolysiloxane capped at both molecular terminals with hydroxyl or hydrolysable groups;

(A-2) 0 – 80 wt.% of a diorganopolysiloxane capped at one molecular terminal with hydroxyl or hydrolysable groups;

(A-3) 0 – 80 wt.% of a diorganopolysiloxane that does not have hydroxyl or hydrolysable groups at both molecular terminals;

(B) 1 - 300 parts by weight of a calcium carbonate powder that contains iron oxide;

(C) 0.5 to 30 parts by weight of a hydrolysable silane or a partially hydrolyzed product thereof; and

(D) 0.001 to 10 parts by weight of a curing catalyst.

8. The composition of Claim 7, wherein said curing catalyst is an organo-titanium compound.

9. The compound according to any preceding claim wherein said bis (2-pyridylthio-1-oxide) non-ferrous metal salt is bis (2-pyridylthio-1-oxide)zinc salt.

10. A method of inhibiting or reducing discoloration of a diorganopolysiloxane composition comprising the steps of mixing: said composition with the following components in any order:-

i) a source of ferrous ions; and
ii) 0.0001 - 0.05 wt.% per total weight of the composition of a bis (2-pyridylthio-1-oxide) non-ferrous salt per total weight of the composition

11. The method of inhibiting or reducing discoloration according to Claim 10, wherein the source of ferrous ions is iron (II) oxide.

12. The method of inhibiting or reducing discoloration according to Claim 10 or 11, wherein the source of ferrous ions is present in the diorganopolysiloxane composition in the form of an impurity in an inorganic filler.

13. The method of inhibiting or reducing discoloration according to any of Claims 10, 11and 12, wherein the bis (2-pyridylthio-1-oxide) non-ferrous salt is bis (2-pyridylthio-1-oxide) zinc salt.

14. A method of inhibiting or reducing discoloration according to any of Claims 10 to 13 wherein there is provided a two part composition comprising a first part which comprises a diorganopolysiloxane polymer and a bis (2-pyridylthio-1-oxide) non-ferrous salt and a second part comprising a diorganopolysiloxane polymer and a source of ferrous ions and said first part is mixed with said second part.

15. A diorganopolysiloxane composition discoloration inhibiting or reducing agent comprising the reaction product of

i) a source of ferrous ions; and

ii) 0.0001 - 0.05 wt.% per total weight of the diorganopolysiloxane composition into which it is to be introduced of a bis (2-pyridylthio-1-oxide) non-ferrous salt.

16. A discoloration inhibiting or reducing agent according to Claim 15, wherein said source of ferrous ions is iron (II) oxide.

17. The discoloration inhibiting or reducing agent according to Claims 15 or 16, wherein said bis (2-pyridylthio-1-oxide) non-ferrous salt is bis (2-pyridylthio-1-oxide) zinc salt.

18. The discoloration inhibiting or reducing agent according to Claims 15, 16 or 17 wherein the reaction product is bis (2-pyridylthio-1-oxide) ferrous salt.

19. A two part composition comprising a first which comprises a diorganopolysiloxane polymer and a bis (2-pyridylthio-1-oxide) non-ferrous salt and a second part comprising a diorganopolysiloxane polymer and a source of ferrous ions.

20. A two part composition in accordance with claim 19 wherein the source of ferrous ions comprises an impurity in an inorganic filler.

21. A two part composition in accordance with claim 20 wherein the inorganic filler is calcium carbonate.

22. Use of an additive in accordance with any one of claims 15 to 18 for inhibiting or reducing discoloration of a diorganopolysiloxane composition.